

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

True Ham Radio Love Story

By Marty Young W4MY

If you are wondering how ham radio can be tied to a real live love story, the kind between a man and a woman, then read on. This isn't anything you will find in a Harlequin novel, so don't get your hopes up. It is, in fact, about how love in action speaks louder than words.

So guys, go get your XYL, YL or SO (Significant Other) and sit down and read this together -- you'll at least get some brownie points, and who knows, you may even get a new rig out of the deal!

Let me start by telling you my long love of ham radio began at age 14 with an HW-16, straight key, one crystal, light bulb dummy load and a dipole in the trees. This was quite typical of a novice station in the 70s for a teenager with only a part-time job. By the time I got through high school, the military, college and GI Bill, I had graduated to an HW-101. My Hot Water rig was very faithful through all those times, no regrets.

Fast forward a bit and I find myself newly married to the girl of my dreams and with a new modest house, not-so-modest mortgage, harmonic on the way and my faithful HW-101. But alas, my faithful friend was just not keeping up with all the new "digital readout" rigs coming on the scene. I had never had a "store bought" rig before. Why I started shopping around (for a rig, not a wife!) all the while

(Continued on page 5)

Next RARS Meeting: February 7

7:30 PM: VE Testing & "Building a DZKit
Sienna Transceiver" by Rich Mitchell NC4EN.

RARS OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

Karl Bowman

W4CHX

919.669.6068

w4chx@arri.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Candy Orr

KJ4OBQ

919-217-7734

cjorr@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY

Bob Chew

KI4YXM

919.782.5778

rlchew@mindspring.com

TREASURER

Greg Seamster

KE4PAX

919.859.0029

ke4pax@arri.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

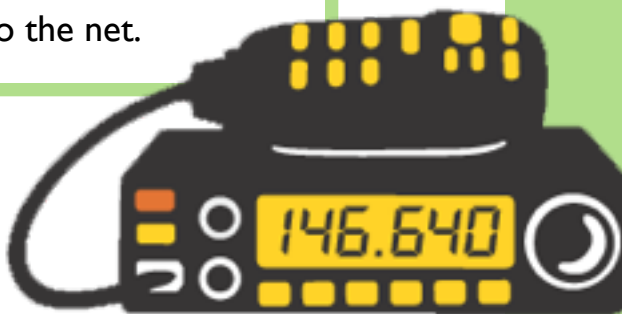
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

February Birthdays

Maury	WW4MC	2/2
Sue	W2GHK	2/2
LOS	AF0AA	2/3
Selene	KG4RMT	2/3
Lillian	KC4AYH	2/4
Grady	KJ4RZU	2/5
Art	W2JNW	2/6
Larry	N4LEW	2/7
Bill	KN4IX	2/8
Howard	W9AAH	2/9
Carl	KU4HM	2/9
Harriette	KF4SER	2/10
Buddy	KD4PCD	2/10
Dennis	AJ4HK	2/13
Tom	N4TL	2/13
Mike	K1MW	2/14
Dick	WW4NC	2/16
Dave	WW4ELT	2/16
Jim	KB2IYS	2/16
Warren	WM2Z	2/18
Don	NJ2E	2/18
Howard	N4KYW	2/19
Jim	WH6JQ	2/20
Roger	AK4RS	2/20
Joe	N1LVN	2/21
Jonathan	KJ4PZR	2/22
Charlie	WA3UTC	2/24
Joe	W4TTO	2/25
Bob	WX4MMM	2/26
Hans	W2UF	2/27
Vinny	N2RTF	2/28
Mary	KG4OQA	2/28

Upcoming Hamfests

- 2/4 FrostFest (ARRL VA State Convention)
Richmond, VA
<http://www.frostfest.com/>
- 2/4 South Carolina State Convention
Ladson, SC
<http://www.wa4usn.org/hamfestf.htm>
- 2/10- Orlando HamCation & Computer Show
2/12 Orlando, FL
<http://www.hamcation.com/>
- 2/25 Annual Dalton ARC Hamfest
Dalton, GA
<http://s2.webstarts.com/w4drc/about.html>
- 2/26 WinterFest
Annandale, VA
<http://www.viennawireless.org/>

New RARS Members

Dan deCourt	W3WDD
Ben Griffin	KJ4DEM
Laura Lukes	KK4FYT
Jim Masclat	WH6JQ
Buddy Speight	KG4BBL

December 2012

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 440	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 30/23	Checkins: 78
Minutes: 525	Minutes: 320
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 9

True Ham Radio Love Story (continued from page 1)

knowing that "HF Radio" wasn't going to be a line item in our budget anytime soon, I'll never know! Then I saw it. The rest is history.

My friend Richard had an Icom 735 for sale. It was in mint shape, six months old and \$550. I negotiated for a week to get it to \$500 not knowing where I was going to get the money, but kept on anyway. Then he told me. I'll never forget it. "Marty," he said, "someone else has bought the 735. Sorry, you are too late. You should have agreed to the \$550." I was put out, but relieved at the same time, taking it as a sign I had no business dicker for a radio I couldn't afford.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, I made a few vague allusions that I was interested in a new HF rig. Admonished quickly and sternly about our financial priorities, she said, "Besides, your birthday is coming up and I want to be able to buy you a present." "Okay," I replied.

A few months later we celebrated my first birthday as a new father. After a lovely dinner I was presented a birthday cake with a frosting picture of an HF radio on it. I lamented to myself about the lost opportunity with the 735 a while back and wished that the frosting picture was a REAL rig!

What happened next is only a blur. My present appeared in lovely paper with a very nice card. I obligingly opened the card, smiled and said, "Thank you, how lovely." She said, "Well, open your present!" As I tore the paper I saw a green and white box with the letters "IC-735" in bold print. "How did Richard's radio get here?" I said in disbelief. "It's your's now!" she exclaimed.

My XYL had gone and bought the 735 out from under me! And my friend Richard was in on the trick! She would not reveal to me how she possibly knew I was negotiating for this radio. She just reminded me to stay away from trouble, as she knows more than I think she does! Yikes!

I kept that radio and enjoyed it for many years. Later, I lent (and subsequently gave) it to a young aspiring ham to whom I was his elmer when he passed his General. I never could have sold it. Happy Valentines Day!

President's Corner

Column by Karl Bowman W4CHX, RARS President

Are you ready for 2012? I am looking forward to hamfests, particularly RARSFest, ARRL Field Day, and outdoor activities with family and friends. I am not looking forward to the return of spring storms and hurricane season. It may seem a little early to be writing about this, but it is not too early to be making preparations.

Several days ago, I was reading an article on the CNN website about surviving an extreme weather disaster. It was reported that Ms. Rane Roberts, a survivor of an EF-4 tornado that struck Alabama in April, 2011, is now keeping emergency supplies in a storm closet. One item in her closet stood out in my mind: a bicycle helmet. Great idea! The article also interviewed Mr. Jack Hayes, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and Director, National Weather Service (NWS). The article reported that the NWS is increasing its efforts to create a "Weather-Ready Nation" and this was discussed. The article also indicated that the FEMA website, <http://www.ready.gov/>, has information on making an emergency plan. Finally, it was reported that a new book entitled, *Extreme Weather*, by Ms. Bonnie Schneider, a meteorologist, contains information on how to stay alive during natural disasters.

That article got me thinking about my own emergency preparedness plan. Yes, I have the long list and I own most of the items, but I haven't completed the last step: putting it all together in a water-resistant container along with copies of important information, e.g., phone numbers, financial and utility account numbers, medical documents, etc. How about the emergency preparedness plan for yourself and your family? And, don't forget your pets! At the very least, they will need a temporary cage, food and water, and documentation of rabies vaccination!

RARSFest 2012 (Saturday, April 7) will soon be here. Volunteers are needed for set up, operations, and tear down. Hank K4HM has made an easy-to-use sign-up page for RARSFest and the link can be found on the RARS website home page. I am sure that you saw the email messages from John AI4RT, but please don't forget about the upcoming public service events. Visit http://rars.org/public-service/ps_signup.php or contact John AI4RT at ai4rt@hotmail.com to volunteer for these public service events.

Reference: Bennett, Katherine Dorsett. "Could you survive an extreme weather disaster?" CNN. <http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/27/us/extreme-weather-prepare-for-worst/index.html>

Minutes of the November 15, 2011 RARS Board Meeting

Minutes by Bob Chew KI4YXM

Present: Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, Ken McEwen KI4OTO, Jack Foster N6UYB, Karl Bowman W4CHX, John Snellen AI4RT, Don Downs WA4AVU, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Candy Orr KJ4OBQ, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Chuck deCourtW3WZN, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, and Charles Swindell WB4DCM.

Guests: Bob Chew KI4YXM and David Crawford KF4VXJ

Apologies and/or emailed reports: Mary KG4OQA, Virginia NC4VA, Courtney KI4HOS, and Greg KE4PAX.

1. Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): The Minutes of the October 18, 2011 meeting of the RARS Board were approved.
3. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): CJ KJ4OBQ reported that the December meeting will be our Holiday meeting with the Encore Singers for entertainment. Members are requested to bring a snack to share. The January meeting program will be done by Mark Freeze WD4KSE on ATV. The February meeting program will be on homebrew. Marty W4MY has suggested a possible program by a person that wrote a book on ham radio messages sent during WWII. Due to the fact that this speaker would travel a rather long distance, we voted to allocate up to \$150.00 for travel expenses.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Greg KE4PAX was not present. However, he had emailed his Treasurer's Report and update on the Budget, including information on budgeted vs actual expenditures.
5. Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): Charlie WB4DCM thanked the Board for their help in producing the minutes. The Board acknowledged Charlie's service by round of applause.
6. Committee reports:
 - a. Public Service Director (John AI4RT): On November 20th, Making Room for Turkey event will be held. That is the last event for this year. The next event will be in March, 2012.

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- b. Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): No report.
- c. Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): No report.
- d. Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX): Bob reported that they have begun the “scrounging operation” for next Field Day. David KF4VXJ is looking at the Red Cross to participate in Field Day. A letter has been prepared to be sent to the Red Cross. There was brief discussion about having an all battery powered Field Day.
- e. FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): The current status of the RARS repeaters and need for repair or replacement of the building at the Baileywick tower site was discussed. The Board acknowledged Gary’s service by round of applause.
- f. RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT): John reported that the next RARSFest meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2012. A new position has been established for RARSFest, which is the Interclub Liaison. Ken KI4OTO will fill the position and visit other clubs to stimulate interest in, and get ideas for, RARSFest.
- g. Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): No report.
- h. Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.
- i. Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): Based on her email communication, Mary KG4OQA reported, “I am not able to attend but the nets are doing well. As always, we continue to get many new check-ins and excellent participation.”
- j. ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): No report.
- k. At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): The APRS class went great. The next meeting will be in January, 2012. If anyone interested in APRS, please contact Don to get on his mailing list.
- l. At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): No comment.
- m. At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB): No comment.
- n. W4DW/W4RNC/N4RAL Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): No comment.
- o. RARSVE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): No comment.

- p. RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM): Hank reported that he is working on the updates for the RARSFest. He is doing a manual update of email addresses. He asked that the new officers to log into the members only pages and update their profile information.

7. Old business:

- a. RARS White Paper (CJ KJ4OBQ): The RARS “white paper” (information letter) has been finalized. There was discussion about the proper place to keep it on the web. There was a motion, seconded, and passed to approve the “white paper” as written.
- b. RARS New Ham Invitation Letter (CJ KJ4OBQ): CJ KG4OBQ made a motion that the invitation letter be accepted. It was seconded and approved.

8. New business:

- a. Possible IBM grant: Karl W4CHX reported that Mark Womack KJ4KZ had advised RARS of the possibility of a grant. After extensive consideration, it was decided not to apply for it at this time. Our thanks to Mark for making us aware of the grant.
- b. Board meeting cancelled for December, 2011: Gary KN4AQ made a motion to cancel the Board meeting for December. The motion was seconded and approved.
- c. Sponsor plaque at 2012 NC QSO Party: Karl W4CHX reported that we had been contacted by the sponsors of the NC QSO Party to see if we would sponsor one of the plaques. The motion was made, seconded, and approved to sponsor a plaque.

- 9. Any other business: CJ KJ4OBQ expressed concern over the number RARS members who do not renew their membership each year.

- 10. Board member’s comments: Board members and guests made comments at the end of the meeting.

- 11. Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Minutes of the December 6, 2011 RARS General Meeting

Minutes by Bob Chew KI4YXM

1. Guests (pre-meeting): Karl W4CHX introduced the guests attendees: He encouraged the RARS Members to greet and welcome our guests.
 - a. Joan Agnor;
 - b. Paul Burke, Jr.;
 - c. Patrick Burke;
 - d. Ruby Burke – KC8AWU;
 - e. Ben Griffin – KJ4DEM;
 - f. Jack Altight – KI4YXK;
2. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Karl W4CHX.
3. Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on November 1, 2011 were approved.
4. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): Jan meeting topic is ATV. Introduces the Encore Singers.
5. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): 287 Members. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.
6. Announcements (Karl W4CHX): 12/13/11 RARS Dinner; Next Board Meeting is 3rd Tuesday of Jan, 2012;
 - a. RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, 12/13/11, 6:30 PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (12/13) for any update information.
 - b. RARS Board meeting: the RARS Board will not meet this month.
 - c. After meeting gathering: The after meeting gathering will be held at Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco).
 - d. Upcoming hamfests: Winston-Salem FirstFest, Winston-Salem, NC (1/24). The members were advised to see the current issue of the Exciter or the ARRL website for information on other, upcoming hamfests.

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Installation of elected officers and committee chairs (Chuck K4HF): The following were installed as club officers for the year 2012:

- President Karl Bowman W4CHX
- Secretary Bob Chew KI4YXM.
- Public Service Director John Snellen AI4RT,
- Public Information Officer Chuck De Court W3WZN,
- RARS 2012 Hamfest Chair Jon Snellen AI4RT,
- RARS Exciter Editor Courtney Enzor KI4HOS,
- RARS Net Manager Mary Holschneider KG4OQA,
- At-large Director Don Downs WA4AVU,
- At-large Director Jack Foster N6UYB,
- At-large Director Ken McEwen KI4OTO,
- FM Repeater Chair Karl Bowman W4CHX,
- W4DW & W4RNC Trustee Jeff Wittich AC4ZO,
- ARRL Liaison Chuck Littlewood K4HF,
- Education Director Virginia Enzor NC4VA,
- RARS Web Master Hank Montgomery K4HM.
- Committee Chair persons as follows:
 - RARS Hospitality Chair Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL,
 - RARS 2012 Field Day Chair Bob Starkenburg W4TTX
 - RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators Liz & Joe White KO4CK & WA4GIR resp.

7. Reports from RARS Board members and others:

- a. John Snellen: RARS Fest is on 4/7/12. We need youth lounge Volunteers.
- b. John Snellen: Public Service events. Did 13 in 2011. Larry & Blanch Dean of MSFits Society Presented Plaque to RARS for outstanding support of events in 2011. They reported that "Making Room for Turkey" had an \$11k gross.

8. Drawing: The winners were: Bill Agnor -K4HVV & Charlie W B4DCM

9. Program: The Encore Singers performed selected seasonal songs.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM by Karl W4CHX

Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The Wake County ARES Net

meets Thursdays at 8:30 PM on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM.

This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

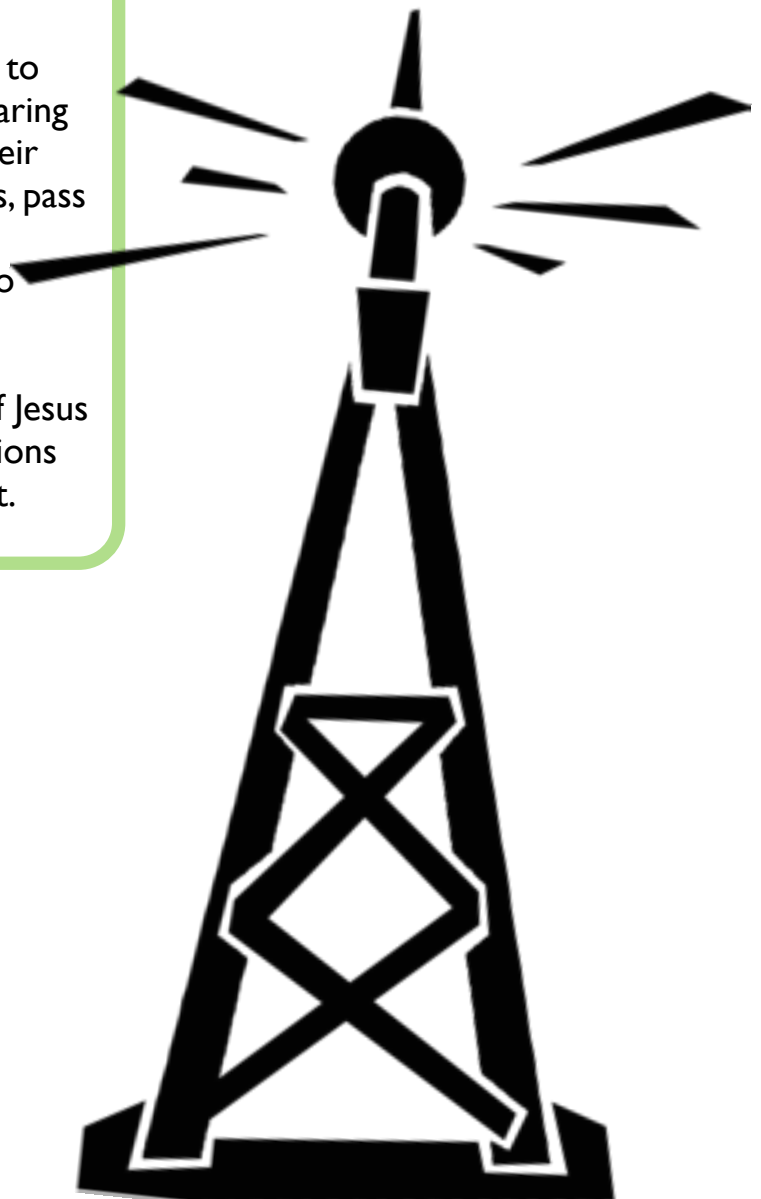
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619

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